

# Hawaiian Gazette

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TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 1889.

THE GREAT SOUTHERN CYCLONE.

Advises received by the Zealandia indicate that the storm which wrecked the naval vessels at Apia was not only of unusual violence, but was of almost, if not quite, unprecedented extent. It appears to have swept across nearly the whole breadth of the South Pacific, and to have reached points far to the eastward of the usual range of similar disturbances. We are assured that it is very rare for storms of this kind to reach as far east as Tahiti, yet in the present instance its violence at that point seems to have been much greater than at Samoa, so far as can be judged from the reports we have of damage done to life and property. Had the presence of the warships of the great powers not been the occasion of losses which excited the attention of the civilized world, the hurricane at Samoa would have been scarcely more than an item of foreign news to be dismissed in a brief paragraph or two. It is to be noticed that the news from Tahiti does not come direct to San Francisco, but is telegraphed around the world from Auckland. The information is meagre, and somewhat confused, leaving a reasonable ground for hope that the disaster may not have been attended with as great loss of life as one part of the dispatch would indicate.

## AMERICAN NAVAL ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE PACIFIC.

American papers just received show a very general waking up to the importance and necessity of the United States recognizing her interests and responsibilities in connection with the countries bordering on the Pacific, as well as with the various island groups scattered throughout that ocean. The weekly San Francisco Bulletin of April 3d contains a strong article upon the necessity of the United States using all diligence and dispatch in putting her navy upon a basis commensurate with the population, the wealth, the vast seacoast, and the growingly important relations of the nation. The following is the concluding portion of the article in question:

Notwithstanding our own views upon the European Powers, demands that any disputes arising be settled by a joint commission of the nations concerned, it is a common demand. The Australian Colonies agree with us in this line of action, and some of their representatives have been seen to understand our position and prospects in that respect better even than we do ourselves. Many eyes among the colonies, according to their own admissions, are already being turned toward the United States as the power that is likely in the future to preserve the interests of the Anglo-Saxon race in the Pacific. They realize that already the center of power of the race is shifting to this country as the center of population has already done, that in the future America will displace England as the leader of that race, that our geographical position, with our vast frontage on the Pacific, and our increasing trade, will make us the dominating power in that ocean.

As this may be added as an important fact in our Government economy. Aside from a few arguments for guaranteeing the coast defenses which we are about to build, and the small interior posts, the United States requires no standing army. From that tremendous burden upon the finances of European States we are relieved, and consequently almost the whole resources of the richest nation on earth, which is only now beginning its career of industrial and commercial development, can be devoted, so far as needed, to the construction and maintenance of a navy, which, growing with our commercial expansion, would enable the United States to take the place of England as mistress of the seas, as well as the leader of the Anglo-Saxon race. Owing to the condition of affairs in the Pacific, the development of the Oriental trade, the complications likely to arise from time to time in connection with island affairs and the probable future relations of China and Japan to the commercial world, the Pacific will become our field of naval activity and San Francisco its center. The Government has made a beginning of recognizing the situation by ordering the building of two modern cruisers here, by furnishing some additional facilities and tools for the Mare Island Navy Yard, and by appointing a Commissioner to locate a new naval station somewhere on Puget Sound. In continuation of this work the Pacific Coast should be made independent of the East in the manufacture of heavy ordnance and all munitions of war, our connections for naval stations in the Hawaiian and Samoan Islands should be utilized, and our naval establishment in the Pacific put in condition to meet any demands which the future may make upon it.

It will be noticed that the closing sentence of the above is in the same line with the ideas expressed by the *American* a few days since, in an article upon the probable effect of the naval disaster at Samoa upon the policy of the United States towards Pearl Harbor.

## BALLOT REFORM IN HAWAII.

Considering the character of the measure, and the radical reform which is proposed to be effected thereby, it is a little curious that the Australian system of secret voting should have made its first public appearance in this country, in the corrupt and reactionary legislature of 1886, a body in which there were scarcely more than half a dozen elected members whose seats were not obtained by the most shameful corrupt practices.

Judge Dole, then member for Lihue and Koloa, rose in his place one fine morning and blandly asked leave to read a bill. Leave was granted, and Mr. Dole proceeded to read the Canadian Election Law, all through the necessary adaptations of course being inserted. The reading occupied about two hours, and the effect upon the assembled wisdom was somewhat as if a thundercloud had burst over the House.

As soon as Mr. Dole had got through, Attorney General Dore rose and "went for" him, and was followed by others with stern denunciation and well affected indignation at the audacity of the member, "at this late stage of the session" presuming to take up the time of the house, and so on. In the midst of the melee Messrs. Dore and Aholo got into a little scrawl on a point of order, in which the latter took offense at the "haole" Minister and, apparently to get even with him, warmly endorsed the principle of Mr. Dole's bill.

The result of Mr. Aholo's unexpected backing was that the bill was ordered printed, and a commission appointed to undertake a general revision of the election laws of the Kingdom, and report at a subsequent session. On the 6th of June last, Hon. W. R. Castle reported for the Commission, and out of this report was evolved the present election law, embracing, as it does, most of the wholesome provisions of the Australian, English, Canadian, Massachusetts and other laws to date, with the exception of certain clauses relating to the method of voting. These clauses, as already remarked in a former article, will doubtless be incorporated before the lapse of many years.

The objections on the score of the illiteracy of a portion of the electors will inevitably become less valid year by year. The mass of illiteracy which, whether wisely or not, was let in by the provisions of the Constitution relative to the first election, will be growing steadily smaller. Death, removals, and, to a certain extent, the acquisition of the rudiments of an education by some who did not possess it in 1887, are causes which will be constantly at work to reduce the illiterate element in our voting population. The wholesome requirements of the Constitution in respect to the educational qualifications of those applying for registration as voters hereafter, if properly enforced, will prevent any considerable reinforcement to our present illiterate material.

With reference to the rising generation, the Board of Education appears to be taking the illiteracy bull by the horns in good earnest. Educational facilities for the young are being extended far beyond former limits, and we believe the desire to improve the quality of the teaching to be no less earnest than the evident determination to increase its quantity and accessibility. Under these conditions, the main objections to the perfecting of our election laws, in accordance with the most advanced ideas which the experience of other communities may justify, will be surely, and not very slowly removed.

## FORTIFYING OUR WATER SUPPLY.

An account which appeared in the *Advertiser* not long since of an efficient process for filtering and purifying water on a large scale, recently introduced by Messrs. Hollister & Co. in their mineral water factory, suggests the desirability and practicability of applying the same or some similar system to the water supply of the whole town.

This is by no means so absurd and chimerical a scheme as it may appear to some. The thing has actually been and is now being done, upon a scale which seems to leave no reasonable doubt of its being entirely practicable to subject even as large an amount of water as is needed to supply a town of much greater population than Honolulu, to a process which will render it beautifully limpid, and about as near absolutely pure as it can be made by any means short of distillation. It seems to be also well established that this can

be done at an expense which is well within the ability of any fairly prosperous community.

The apparatus used is quite simple, and even upon the scale required to treat the water supply of a whole town, its original cost would be no very serious matter. Being simple, and constructed of durable materials, the wear and tear is small. No expensive chemicals or materials of any kind are required, and the necessary superintendence is nothing beyond what any fairly intelligent mechanic can give. The machine now in use by Messrs. Hollister & Co. occupies a space of about two feet square by six feet high, and is claimed to filter two thousand gallons an hour. By the turning of two or three cocks, the operation of the apparatus is reversed, and the filtering material subjected to a thorough cleansing in a few minutes.

We are aware, and are very glad to say, that our present water supply is ordinarily of very good quality, much better in fact than that of many towns of larger size and much greater pretensions. At the same time, we all know that after every considerable rain, the water from our taps is very muddy. During long dry spells, when streams are low and the water in the reservoirs shallow, there is liable to be such an increase in the foreign matters held either in suspension or solution, as to amount to serious impairment of purity and consequent healthfulness. There have been times when there was a prevalence of sickness of a kind which, if not demonstrably due to impure water supply, was, at least, strongly suggestive of such an origin.

The furnishing of Honolulu with water being in the hands of the government, the adoption of any such measure as the one proposed would have to be a government undertaking. We hereby invite the Interior Department and the Public Works Bureau to look into the matter carefully, with a view to ascertaining if the benefits to accrue are not sufficiently great in proportion to the expense involved, to justify official action.

## THE BEACH ROAD TO WAIKIKI.

On the lobby wall of the Government house, near the makai door of the office of the Minister of the Interior, is to be seen a plan or map of a new road laid out along the beach from the old Leper Asylum to the Pinnia stream at the hither end of the line of residences on the Waikiki shore.

The new road from the end of Queen street to the inland side of the Leper Asylum is continued through those grounds to the shore. Thence to Pinnia a strip of one hundred feet in width is taken along the beach. For the first mile or so, a slight grading will complete an excellent road. The second mile is through swampy ground flooded at high water. The bottom is solid; the work required is simply to throw up from the marsh a dyke of the required width. The soil of mixed sand and clay will make an excellent road without metaling, through perhaps the whole distance. We believe it is intended to finish but fifty feet in width at present. Crossing Pinnia creek, the new road ends in the street ranks of the beach residences.

The new road will be a great advantage to our citizens as giving a new and superior thoroughfare to our beautiful seaside suburb, one that is free from tramway obstruction, and of ample breadth. It will also greatly enhance the value of property along the route. There is some excellent land for residences on the shores of Kukulua, below Mrs. Ward's; the sea, however, is too shoal for sea bathing. But the great advantage will be that of a splendid boulevard on the seashore; something which has hitherto been totally lacking. This will doubtless in a short time be adorned and sheltered with trees, such as flourish on the shore, the algerobas, ironwood, etc. The sea view is superb; the shore line sweeps outward, so as to include magnificent views both of Honolulu harbor and of Waikiki and Kapiolani Park, with Leahi terminating the coast view in one direction and the Waianae mountains in the other.

This is undoubtedly destined to become the great driveway of Honolulu. It is partly a misfortune, and partly not, that along the whole distance the reef is shoal, and bare at low water, clear to the shore, presenting a strip of desolate flat at low tide. This, however, is a protection to the boulevard from the very destructive action of storm waves,

such as sometimes tear away improvements along the Waikiki beach where the water is deep enough for bathing.

Upon the reef are to be seen remains of the coral blocks, the cutting of which used to employ the prison labor of forty years ago. Most persons are doubtless ignorant of the fact that this custom gave the sobriquet of "The Reef" to the Honolulu Penitentiary.

Inland from the new road will be the magnificent view of our mountains and valleys, which is best obtained from well to seaward. There is at present an intervening stretch of salt marshes, which will offer for a while the eye, and sometimes another sense. All these will in time be reclaimed and grassed or cultivated, a process now going on successfully on similar tracts at Waikiki.

But for the crazy plundering which went on in the past under the name of government, and especially the wholesale and customary robbery of the road money, we might have had this boulevard years ago. It will be remembered that under Minister Aholo, \$7,000 appropriated for extending Queen street was spent for other purposes, Queen Street remaining no longer than before. We trust we shall not be accused of desiring to "fall down and worship" anyone if we suggest that under the present administration things are not managed in that way.

## NAVAL NOTES.

Rear Admiral Belknap sailed from San Francisco last month on the steamer City of New York for China, to take command of the Asiatic squadron.

A thousand British man-of-war's men and 700 Highlanders of a British regiment marched in the procession at the funeral of Admiral Chandler, of the United States navy, at Hongkong, China, on February 19th.

A New York dispatch in the Naval and Military Record (England) reads: It is stated that the Navy Department have received information which shows that the addition of powerful dynamite cruisers to the United States navy is attracting the careful attention of several European Governments. It is stated that one Government, believed to be that of Italy, has actually offered to buy the new cruiser Vesuvius right away, provided the United States Government will relieve the builders from their contract obligations.

The Naval Record speaks of the attempts at gaining "information at the Admiralty respecting the naval reinforcements which, it is known, have been ordered to proceed to Australian waters in connection with the Samoan difficulty, but all have been equally unsuccessful." It says that, about the time of the Penjdeh incident, it suddenly struck the Lords of the Admiralty that the practice of posting up a daily list, showing the movements of ships on foreign stations, gave valuable information to foreign governments and possible enemies, and it was promptly stopped.

A letter to the Naval and Military Record from Cook's Islands, in describing the festivities in connection with the annexation visit of H. B. M. S. Hyacinth, tells of natives boarding the ship 2000 and 300 at a time, bringing bountiful presents of the fruits, potatoes, etc., with which the islands abound. They roamed all over the ship and were delighted with all that they saw. The majority of visitors were women, and some of them danced and sang. The Hoolian [hula?] dance was of a very original character. It may be called the "cancan" of the islands. A peculiar feature of their singing was the blending of Moody and Sankey's tunes, taught them by the missionaries, with native airs. All the natives expressed themselves delighted at becoming friends of the English Queen-mother and under her protection. The great importance of Cook's Islands as the site for a coaling station in the South Pacific undoubtedly led to the annexation.

## Ladies' Benevolent Society.

The public invitation to the meeting of the above named society brought a large number of ladies to the lower room of Central Union Church Thursday morning. Of the consultations and deliberations of the assembled dames and damsels, no reporter of the male persuasion can be supposed competent to speak. The most interesting feature of the gathering to outsiders, was a bountiful lunch, which was served without money and without price to the gentlemen friends of the fair benefactors, from 12 to 1 o'clock. The ability of the ladies of Honolulu in the way of providing good things to eat is too well known to need any advertising. The coffee, the sandwiches, salads and cakes, and above all the baked beans, were worthy of the fame of those by whom they were provided and served.

## Bar Examinations.

Kinney M. Koonan and A. P. Kaulaoka, the latter one of the representatives of Honolulu in the Legislature, have been admitted to the practice of law in the inferior courts of the Kingdom. The application of J. W. Kamahala for license has been rejected. The admission of John Kalama has been postponed.

Charles Williams has to be examined again in December.

J. W. H. I. Kille has not been examined.

## New Advertisements.

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